DHA vs DOH vs MOH: Which One is Right for You?

If you're a healthcare professional planning to work in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one of the first questions you'll face is**:** Which medical license do I need DHA, DOH, or MOH? Each licensing authority governs healthcare practice in a specific region of the UAE, and understanding the difference between them is key to choosing the right path for your career.

This guide breaks down everything you need to know about **DHA license,** DOH**,** and MOH licenses their requirements, differences, and how to decide which one suits your goals best.

Understanding the UAE Medical Licensing Authorities

The UAE has a decentralized healthcare licensing system, meaning each emirate has its own authority responsible for regulating doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals. The three main licensing bodies are:

- **DHA (Dubai Health Authority)** – Regulates healthcare professionals working in the Emirate of Dubai.
- **DOH (Department of Health)** – Oversees medical practice in Abu Dhabi.

- **MOH (Ministry of Health and Prevention)** – Governs licensing for healthcare professionals in the northern emirates (Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain, and Ras Al Khaimah).

Each authority follows similar qualification and verification procedures but operates its own online system and examination process.

What is the DHA License?

The DHA license Dubai is mandatory for all doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals who wish to work in Dubai's public or private healthcare facilities.

Key Requirements for DHA License:

- Recognized medical degree or healthcare qualification
- Completed internship or house job
- Minimum of two years post-graduate experience for general practitioners
- Good Standing Certificate from the current licensing body (issued within six months)
- Primary Source Verification (PSV) through DataFlow
- Passing the DHA Prometric exam (if applicable)

Where You Can Work with a DHA License:

Hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers licensed by the Dubai Health AuthorityThe DHA license is ideal for healthcare professionals who wish to live and work in Dubai, the UAE's most vibrant and cosmopolitan city.

What is the DOH License?

The **DOH license in Abhu dhabi**, issued by the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi, allows medical professionals to practice within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Key DOH License Requirements for Doctors:

- Recognized medical degree from an accredited institution
- Internship completion certificate
- Minimum required years of clinical experience
- Good Standing Certificate
- Primary Source Verification (PSV) via DataFlow
- Competency examination (if required)

Where You Can Work with a DOH License:

Hospitals and healthcare facilities in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain.The DOH license is ideal for doctors and healthcare professionals aiming to work in Abu Dhabi, known for its advanced healthcare infrastructure and high demand for skilled specialists.

What is the MOH License?

The **MOH license** (Ministry of Health and Prevention) is required for professionals who want to work in the northern emirates, including Sharjah, Ajman, Fujairah, Umm Al Quwain, and Ras Al Khaimah.

Key MOH License Requirements:

- Accredited medical or healthcare qualification
- Proof of internship and experience
- Good Standing Certificate
- Primary Source Verification (PSV)
- MOH written or computer-based examination

Where You Can Work with a MOH License:

Public and private healthcare facilities outside Dubai and Abu Dhabi .The MOH license is ideal for professionals looking to work in the northern regions, where living costs are often lower and opportunities for general practitioners and allied health professionals are abundant.

Can You Transfer Between DHA, DOH, and MOH Licenses?

Yes doctors and healthcare professionals can transfer their license between these authorities under the Unified Healthcare Professional Qualification Requirements (PQR) system. However, each transfer must be approved by the target authority, and additional verification or exams may be required depending on your category and experience.

For example, if you hold a DHA license in Dubai but receive a job offer in Abu Dhabi, you can apply for a DOH license transfer, provided your documents meet DOH standards.

Understanding DHA DOH and MOH Licenses in the UAE Which Medical License Should You Apply For

DHA vs DOH vs MOH

Characteristic	DHA	DOH	MOH
Jurisdiction	Dubai	Abu Dhabi	Northern Emirates
Applicable To	Dubai Professionals	Abu Dhabi Professionals	Northern Emirates Professionals
Licensing Portal	Sheryan Portal	TAMM Portal	MOHAP e-licensing
Verification Process	DataFlow PSV	DataFlow PSV	DataFlow PSV
Exam Requirement	DHA Prometric	DOH Exam	MOH Exam
Experience Required	2 Years	2 Years	2 Years
Good Standing	Required	Required	Required
Work Location	DHA Licensed	DOH Licensed	Northern Emirates Facilities
License Transfer	Convertible	Convertible	Convertible
Ideal For	Dubai Sector	Abu Dhabi Hospitals	Community Practice

Choosing the Right License for Your Career

When deciding between DHA, DOH, and MOH, consider the following factors:

- **Where do you want to live and work?**
  - Dubai → Apply for a DHA license
  - Abu Dhabi → Apply for a DOH license
  - Northern Emirates → Apply for a MOH license

- **Type of healthcare facility you prefer** (government, private hospital, or clinic)
- **Career specialization** — some specialties are in higher demand in certain emirates
- **Lifestyle and salary preferences** — Dubai offers a fast-paced lifestyle, Abu Dhabi focuses on stability, and the northern emirates offer a quieter environment with lower living costs

If you're unsure which path suits you best, consulting with medical licensing experts like Dr Expat can help you identify the best route and guide you through the entire process from document attestation and DataFlow verification to final license approval.

Conclusion

Deciding between DHA vs DOH vs MOH depends on where you want to build your medical career in the UAE. Each authority whether it's the Dubai Health Authority (DHA)**,** Department of Health (DOH)**,** or Ministry of Health (MOH) ensures that only qualified and competent healthcare professionals serve the community.

By understanding the differences in their licensing processes and requirements, you can make an informed choice that aligns with your professional goals. Whether you aim to work in Dubai's dynamic healthcare sector, Abu Dhabi's specialized hospitals, or the northern emirates' community-focused clinics, your medical career in the UAE begins with the right license and the right guidance.

Ready to get started? Let **Dr Expat** help you secure your DHA**,** DOH**,** or MOH license quickly and confidently so you can focus on your medical journey in the UAE.